

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03025 070856Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11 EB-07

ACDA-07 SSM-03 OMB-01 SCCT-01 /083 W

----- 088398

O R 070822Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9424

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3025

E.O.11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, SY, US, PLO

SUBJ: SHAFIQ AL HOUT DISCUSSES PLO/FATAH RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND
LEBANESE SITUATION

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBOFF HAS RECEIVED REPORT FROM RELIABLE SOURCE
OF REMARKS MADE BY SHAFIQ AL HOUT, DIRECTOR OF BEIRUT PLOO OFFICE
AND AN 'ARAFAT MAN, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION APRIL 6. IN COURSE OF
CONVERSATION, HOUT DISCUSSED MINIMAL DEMANDS OF KAMAL JUMBLATT AND
EXPRESSED APPREHENSION RE SYRIAN ACTIONS AND INTENTIONS. END SUM-
MARY.

2. PLO VIEW OF LEBANESE SCENE: HOUT SAID IT IS HIS UNDERSTANDING
THAT JUMBLATT IS WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY OF MENTIONED PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATES SO LONG AS NEXT PRESIDENT IS NOT RPT NOT IMPOSED
BY SYRIA. HOUT BLAMED FRANGIE FOR FAILURE OF SYRIA INITIATIVE ON
11 MARCH. HE BELIEVED JUMBLATT WOULD INSIST ON FRANGIE'S RESIGNATION,
BUT PROBABLY COULD BE TALKED INTO ACCEPTING LESS THAN MAXIMAL POS-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03025 070856Z

ITION ON LEFTIST-PROPOSED REFORMS. PLO AND JUMBLATT DO NOT RPT

NOT REJECT SYRIAN INITIATIVE BUT BOTH WILL OPPOSE SYRIAN EFFORTS TO DESTROY "INDEPENDENT IDENTITY" OF PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE.

3. PLO/FATAH RELATIONS WITH SYRIA: HOUT SECONDED JUMBLATT'S ASSERTION THAT SYRIANS DON'T HAVE FULL UNDERSTANDING OF LEBANESE SCENE AND OPINED THAT PRESIDENT ASAD WOULD FACE INTERNAL PROBLEMS IF HE OPENLY INTERVENED MILITARILY IN LEBANON. PLO FULLY AGREES WITH SYRIAN POLITICAL INITIATIVE HERE BUT WILL RESIST BY ANY MEANS SYRIAN HEGEMONY. HOUT CLAIMED SYRIANS ARE CONTINUING TO INFILTRATE REGULAR TROOPS IN SA'IQA GARB AND STATED PLO/FATAH RELATIONS WITH SA'IQA ARE CURRENTLY AT LOWEST EBB CONCEIVABLE SHORT OF OPEN WARFARE. HOUT CONFIRMED THAT SA'IQA ELEMENTS (WHICH HE SAID ARE ACTUALLY SYRIAN REGULARS) ARE SLOWLY ESTABLISHING CONTROL OVER KEY INSTALLATIONS IN LEBANON AND HAVE OCCUPIED PORTS OF SIDON AND TRIPOLI AS WELL AS ZAHRANI REFINERY SOUTH OF SIDON. HE VIGOROUSLY DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT UNITS OF THE PLA AIN JALUT BRIGADE WERE INVOLVED IN TRIPOLI OCCUPATION. SYRIA WAS BRINGING IN ITS OWN TROOPS, HE ASSERTED, BECAUSE DAMASCUS REGARDS PLA FORCES HERE AS "UNRELIABLE." AS EVIDENCE, HE ALLEGED THAT PLA UNIT SENT IN EARLY MARCH TO QUELL BEGINNINGS OF "BARRACKS REBELLION" IN TRIPOLI AREA HAD REFUSED TO CARRY OUT ITS ORDERS AND EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH LEBANESE ARMY ELEMENTS WHO HAD DECLARED FOR LT. KHATIB'S "LEBANESE ARAB ARMY."

BROWN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PFOR, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT03025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760130-1135
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760489/aaaacyek.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAFIQ AL HOUT DISCUSSES PLO/FATAH RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND LEBANESE SITUATION
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE, SY, US, PLO, (HOUT, SHAFIQ AL)
To: SECSTATE WASHDC AMMAN CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA TEL AVIV JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006